

Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 00311 061723Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00 OES-07
DLOS-09 /083 W

-----126612 061729Z /43

P 061639Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8200
INFO CINCLANT NORFOLK VA PRIORITY
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
COMICEDEFOR KEFLAVIK IC
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSH THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG 187
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 0311

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, IC, NATO
SUBJECT: NATO AWACS BRIEFING IN ICELAND

1. BGEN PIETROWSKI PRESENTED NATO AWACS BRIEFING MORNING
OF MARCH 6 TO AUDIENCE OF GOI OFFICIALS AND AMERICANS
FROM EMBASSY AND ICELAND DEFENSE FORCE. ICELANDERS WERE
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PAGE 02 REYKJA 00311 061723Z

FONMIN AGUSTSSON, MFA PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY BJORNSSON,
DEPUTY PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY HELGASON
MFA COUNSELLOR
EGILSSON, MFA COUNSELOR (DEFENSE DIVISION) GUDMUNDSSON,
DEPUTY SEC GEN OF PRIME MINISTRY BJARNASON, AND DIRECTOR
GENERAL OF ICELANDIC COAST GUARD SIGURDSSON.

2. BRIEFING COVERED OPERATION OF AWACS, INTEROPERABILITY WITH OTHER SYSTEMS, AND OTHER ASPECTS OF AIRCRAFT. BRIEFING WAS WELL-RECEIVED, AND AUDIENCE COULD NOT HELP BUT BE IMPRESSED WITH CAPABILITY AND FLEXIBILITY OF AWACS. ICELANDERS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN ABILITY OF AIRCRAFT TO KEEP TRACK OF FISHING VESSELS IN NEARYBY WATERS.

3. AT LUNCHEON HOSTED BY FOREIGN MINISTER FOLLOWING BRIEFING, FONMIN SAID HE WOULD NOT GIVE HIS SPEECH ABOUT DEFENSE SINCE USG "WOULD NOT WANT TO HEAR THAT SPEECH." HE CONTINUED, HOWEVER, THAT SINCE NEED FOR DEFENSE HAS ALREADY BEEN DEMONSTRATED, GOI IS PLEASED THAT IT WILL BE RECIPIENT OF MOST MODERN AND MOST TECHNICALLY ADVANCED EQUIPMENT.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY APPRECIATES AND WELCOMES BRIEFING WHICH WE BELIEVE WILL BE MOST USEFUL IN GETTING ICELANDERS TO UNDERSTAND VALUE OF AWACS FOR ICELANDIC DEFENSE AND IN FURTHER REMINDING ICELANDERS THAT THEIR NATIONAL INTERESTS EXTEND WELL BEYOND 200-MILE FISHERIES' JURISDICTION LIMIT. WE BELIEVE IT WILL CONTINUE TO BE MOST IMPORTANT THAT WE KEEP GOI INFORMED RE OUR AWACS PLANNING, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO DEPLOYMENT DATES AND ANY PUBLICITY. WASHINGTON WILL WISH TO KEEP IN MIND THAT WHEN AWACS DEPLOYMENT IS DECLASSIFIED, FOREIGN MINISTER WILL BE EXPECTED CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 REYKJA 00311 061723Z

TO ANSWER TO PRESS AND ALTHING ANY QUESTIONS ON SUBJECT.

5. WE UNDERSTAND AGUSTSSON WILL BE RAISING MATTER OF AWACS DEPLOYMENT TO ICELAND WITH CABINET COLLEAGUES MARCH 7.
BLAKE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AWACS, MEETINGS, BRIEFING MATERIALS
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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